



**Rhode Island's Career Resource Network**

# News Corner

Volume 3, No. 1

Spring 2004

*Support for Academic and Career Counseling Programs*



## How Straight is Your Career Path?

### Does Your Career Path Look Like a Pretzel?

What does your career path look like? Perhaps it looks like this:



Or maybe it looks more like this:



Actually, the second pattern is much more common. Few people determine their career goals at an early age and then steadily proceed to reach them. Throughout their lives they will be managing their careers by modifying their goals and the plans and actions they develop to reach these goals.

This irregular career path may help explain or result from some of the problems often identified in education. Nationally, 32% of public high school students do not graduate. College students often do not have a career plan, or have a plan which is not well structured, which may result in changes of major. College graduates may go into a job which has little or no relationship to their major.

There are a number of factors which contribute to this erratic career course. Some of these are related to society, the environment, and other external conditions. Among them are resource depletion and environmental disasters. Development of new technology, competition within an industry which results in downsizing, and the general state of the economy affect careers. Personal factors, including illness or accident and changes in family situation may force adjustments in career plans or direction.

Given the reality that there will be numerous changes in each individual's career plan over the years, it is almost as though that plan is a living, growing entity. Individuals will often have to make decisions or choices. Because these decisions can have a dramatic impact on their lives, it is important that they be informed decisions. It is important to have knowledge of the economy, labor market trends, changes in occupations, and the availability of the constantly changing education/training resources. This knowledge must be updated whenever a career decision is needed throughout the life of the individual, very often without the help of a counselor. Equipping our students/clients with the knowledge and skills to acquire and reacquire this knowledge and use it to make good decisions will have a major impact on their happiness, productivity, and general success in life.



**The 2003-2005 Rhode Island Career Anchor** has been delivered to schools and agencies which requested copies. This edition features information about the current job market in Rhode Island, advice on career management, excerpts from the Real Game, local educational listings and a number of excellent resources.

If you did not receive one and would like a copy, please send a request by email to [crn@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:crn@dlt.state.ri.us) or by fax to (401) 462-8766. The Career Anchor is also available on the CRN web site at: [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/anchor.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/anchor.htm).



## Real Game News

Facilitator training was completed in February for *Play Real* (grades 3-4), *Be Real* (grades 9-10), and *Real Times/Real Life* (adults).

Training will be offered in April and May for most of the Real Game Series. Dates and other details will be available soon on the CRN web site and will be emailed or mailed to persons who work with programs at the appropriate levels.

On February 5, 2004 *The Cranston Herald* had a front-page story on school counselors, featuring Jodi Murphy, counselor at the Chester Barrows Elementary School. The story included a description and three photographs of the *Play Real Game* in use at the school.

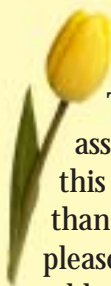
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### Computer Assisted Career Guidance (Choices, CX Online, Career Futures, Paws in Jobland)

Concerned with transition planning? Special education? Download the new guide, *More Successful Transition Planning*, from [www.Bridges.com](http://www.Bridges.com). The guide gives special education teachers and counselors specific ways to help students prepare their own transition plans. Activities are provided, including some using resources from *CX Online* and *Choices*.

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**Improved Career Decision Making (ICDM)**, a one-day program for career development professionals to help clients/students with career decision making, will be offered March 26 and again on May 21. The program has recently been revised to reflect advances in computer technology and the effect of recent legislation such as the No Child Left Behind Act. Details and registration form can be downloaded from [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/training.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/training.htm).



### Thanks for your help !

The CRN is attempting to reduce costs associated with the publication and distribution of this newsletter by sending email messages rather than hard copy. If you have not already done so, please send your email address to [crn@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:crn@dlt.state.ri.us) and help get maximum value from the CRN dollars.

## Occupational Focus:

### Cooks and Chefs



There are several O\*NET occupations in this category, varying by complexity of duties, required education/training, and wages.

**Chef and Head Cook**, the most demanding and highest paid of these occupations, generally requires one to two years of postsecondary training or an apprenticeship. Workers in this occupation may plan menus, supervise cooks, and generally manage food preparation. In Rhode Island this is a growing occupation which pays on average \$16.14 per hour (approximately \$33,300 per year).

**Restaurant Cooks** prepare food in restaurants and may supervise helpers. This occupation generally requires a minimum of high school graduation plus long term on-the-job training. It is a stable occupation. In Rhode Island Restaurant Cooks' median wage is \$10.37/hr. (approximately \$20,825/yr.).

**Short Order Cooks** prepare and cook-to-order a variety of foods which require only a short preparation time. They may take orders and serve customers. High school graduation is preferred, plus short-term on-the-job training. This occupation is stable. The median wage for Short Order Cooks in Rhode Island is \$8.80/hr. (approximately \$17,710/yr.).

**Fast Food Cooks** prepare and cook food in a restaurant with a limited menu. Duties are limited to one or two basic items requiring short preparation time. High school graduation is preferred plus short-term on-the-job training. This occupation is stable. The median wage for Fast Food Cooks in Rhode Island is \$7.78/hr. (\$16,185/yr.).



For additional information on these and related occupations, consult the *Choices* or *CX Online* computer programs, <http://online.onetcenter.org>, or the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*.

# What's New in the CRN Corner?



**Learn to Earn posters**, developed by America's Career Resource Network, will be available from the RI CRN in early April. Check the CRN web site for availability. These posters present the same message as the popular CRN posters, *Think You Don't Need an Education*.

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**Smart Options**, a classroom activity in four lessons based on Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences, is now available. Contact the CRN for information.

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**Career Development Facilitator** workshop will be offered this summer, starting July 5. It will meet two days a week through August 12. Announcement and registration form will be distributed soon and posted on the CRN web site. The course will also be offered in the fall, starting in late September.

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**School-Based Career Development research** is summarized in three publications available from the CRN.

- **The Educational, Social, and Economic Value of Informed and Considered Career Decisions**, a 20-page report, is also available at [www.acrna.net](http://www.acrna.net).
  - The same information, condensed and in brochure format, will be available after mid-March.
  - **School-Based Career Development: A Synthesis of the Literature**, a 40-page report by Katherine L. Hughes and Melinda Karp of Columbia University, was prepared under a grant from America's Career Resource Network.
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The **Occupational Outlook Handbook and the Career Guide to Industries 2004-05** editions were released February 27 on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' web site. Print versions of both publications are expected to be available in Spring 2004. Web sites are [www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm) for the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* and [www.bls.gov/oco/cg/home/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/home/) for the *Career Guide to Industries*. Additional information is at [www.bls.gov/news.release/ooh.toc.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ooh.toc.htm).

**New LMI publications** from the Labor Market Information (LMI) Unit of the Dept. of Labor and Training may be viewed or downloaded from [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications.htm](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications.htm). Printed copies are available from the CRN [crn@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:crn@dlt.state.ri.us) or LMI: [lmi@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:lmi@dlt.state.ri.us).

- *Building Jobs for Rhode Island: An Analysis of Employment and Wages in Rhode Island's Construction Industries 1992-2002*
  - *Health Services in the Ocean State*
  - *A Decade of Change in Rhode Island: An Analysis of Private Sector Employment in the Ocean State 1992-2002*
  - *Multiple Job Holders in the Ocean State*
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**Who Graduates? Who Doesn't?: A Statistical Portrait of Public High School Graduation, Class of 2001**, a research study by Christopher B. Swanson, has been released by the Urban Institute. Nationwide, the graduation rate is 68%, with differences between ethnic groups and gender. It can be viewed or downloaded from [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org) (click on "research," then "education."

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**Students urged to protect their identity.** The U. S. Department of Education has launched a new web site, [www.ed.gov/misused](http://www.ed.gov/misused), with suggestions to help students and families protect their identities.

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**Upcoming events** of interest to career development professionals include:

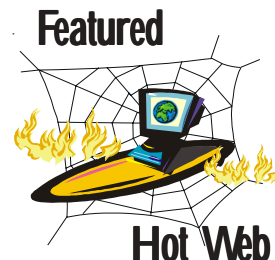
- May 7, 2004 - R. I. School Counselor Association [www.riscassoc.org](http://www.riscassoc.org)
- May 12, 2004 - Middle School Conference [www.ristc.org](http://www.ristc.org) for teams of middle school teachers, administrators, counselors
- October 18, 2004 - Partnerships to Employment (P2E) [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org) for all concerned with preparing people with disabilities for employment

## A Web Site Worth Surfing:

### Rhode Island School-to-Career



[www.ristc.org](http://www.ristc.org)



School-to-Career (STC) is a system of educational opportunities that promotes high academic standards while preparing students for the challenges for the 21st century. STC classroom activities link the curriculum to real world experiences through project-based instruction and partnerships with business and community participants. Work-based learning activities include job shadowing, informational interviews, internships, apprenticeships and service learning projects. The Rhode Island STC Partnership includes parents, educators, students, employers, and community-based organizations. It exists to administer federal funds provided by the School-to-Work Opportunities Act (1994) through the consideration and funding of system-building proposals. They include curriculum revision to industry standards, teacher externships in the workplace, professional development, career guidance and other career exploration for students, and extensive involvement of the business community in the classroom.

The STC web site highlights current events as well as their best practices, industry partnerships, policies, achievements and awards. There is also an extensive number of useful resource links for employers, parents, educators and students. The site, which has recently been redesigned, is filled with interesting material, easy to navigate and frequently updated.

Do you have comments or suggestions on the contents of our CRN News Corner? Do you have information you'd like us to publish?

If so, please contact us at: Career Resource Network, Thomas Culhane, Career Resource Network Manager,  
RI Department of Labor and Training, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920,  
(401) 462-8790 phone, (401) 462-8766 fax, [tculhane@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:tculhane@dlt.state.ri.us), email, [www.dlt.ri.gov/crn](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/crn) web site

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